

St. Johnsbury Caledonian

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Revision of Public Statutes.

The legislature of 1915 passed an act (No. 242) authorizing the justices of the supreme court to appoint a commissioner "to revise, re-draft, compile, consolidate and arrange in methodical order, and in plain and simple language, the public statutes of this state, upon the basis, plan and general form of the Public Statutes of Vermont, with authority to omit redundant enactments, reject superfluous words, circuitous and ambiguous phraseology, recommend amendments, and condense the whole into a concise and comprehensive form as is consistent with a full and clear expression of the will of the legislature, and report the same to the general assembly at its next biennial session."

In accordance with that law the justices have appointed Hon. Hale K. Darling commissioner, and for months he has been engaged on this important work. We have no means of knowing how much revision he has made, but are informed that he has rewritten the fish and game laws of the state, changing them from statutes that prohibit everything that is not permitted in the statutes to statutes prohibiting certain acts by fishermen and hunters and allowing them to do everything not expressly prohibited. In other words he has rewritten the fish and game laws of the state, making them an entirely different set of laws from those enacted by the state legislature. He proposes to submit in a separate report, however, a revision of the fish and game laws in their present permissive form that the legislature may adopt in place of the entirely new code of these laws he has made. This was done in face of the protest of Fish and Game Commissioner J. W. Titcomb, who wrote the present form of the laws, and against the expressed wish of every fish and game organization in the state of Vermont.

"Why has the commissioner done this?" becomes an interesting question. What authority has he for changing a statute enacted by the general assembly? The statute defining his authority says his revision shall be "a full and clear expression of the will of the legislature." The expression of the legislature was the permissive form of the fish and game laws as they stand on the statute books, made by the legislature of 1912 after full and fair discussion before both bodies of that legislature. The Hon. Hale K. Darling was chairman of the committee on revision at that time and approved of the law as it was written and enacted. Now he proposes, at a considerable expense to the state, to undo the work of the legislature and substitute a one man act for the work of an entire assembly fully empowered to enact the laws for the people of Vermont.

To our mind Mr. Darling is brazenly defying the thousands of members of the fish and game organizations of the state and the only legal authority for enacting law in Vermont, as well as the legislature which defined his authority in revising the statutes of the state. This seems an uncalled for exhibition of dictatorship and an unnecessary affront to the fish and game department of the state. Mr. Titcomb has given a tremendous amount of work and thought during the past twenty-five years to the development of the fish and game interests of the state. He rewrote and codified the fish and game laws of the state, formulating them in compliance with the judgment of the whole country. He changed the laws from complicated regulations which gave rise to considerable expensive litigation to clear and explicit regulations that the common man could understand and observe. Now an attorney is dictatorially changing the laws back into the form that brought fat fees to attorneys in defiance of public sentiment and the legally enacted statutes.

We do not believe the people will stand for such high handed proceedings. Mr. Darling as revisor of the statutes should embody in the revised statutes the present law and, if he wishes to do so, submit his proposed new laws in a separate report. This will be all the expense he is warranted in making the state and all he has a moral right to do to promote the interests of pettifogging attorneys.

The 25 cent piece was made famous by the American Liver Tablets, the perfect laxative.

On To Republican Victory.

The national republican convention at Chicago on Saturday opened the way for a heartening republican victory at the polls in November. In his message accepting the nomination, ringing with clean, undaunted Americanism, Nominee Charles E. Hughes entered the road to victory and Theodore Roosevelt in refusing to accept the progressive nomination assured it.

The nomination of Hughes was a victory for the common people of the land and a defeat of the former bosses of the republican party. Barnes no longer can dictate incompetence, no longer have charge of the campaign and the brains and morality of the republican party are firmly seated in the saddle. It was the promotion of a man who did not personally desire the honor and the defeat of those personally ambitious for the nomination.

The nomination of Woodrow Wilson by the democrats is assured and the issue will be between Wilson with his moral life clouded to such an extent the press has not dared to print the facts, and Hughes whose moral life is above suspicion; between Wilson who has humiliated and dishonored his country by his vacillating foreign policies, his desertion of Americans exposed to the horrors of pillage and murder by lawless bandits, his debasement of diplomatic service to the greed of politics and his hostility to American industry; and Hughes, who stands for the protection of the American citizen on land and sea, preparedness that will not only defend but enforce respect for this country, diplomatic service free from political raids and American industry protected enough to allow its greatest development.

There is no question what the verdict of the American people will be on these issues and every American who believes in a better, more prosperous and morally clean America can work with all his zeal and courage for the election of Charles E. Hughes, president of the United States.

Move for Better Teachers.

Perhaps the importance of the announcement of the State Board of Education of the change in granting teacher's certificates, published in Friday's Caledonian, was not fully recognized. It certainly was not by the editor until the editorial of L. B. Johnson, a member of the State Board of Education, was read.

Under the new plan there will be no more "teachers' examinations" but a certain amount of special training will be required to secure a probationary certificate and the teacher's work during the probationary period will be the test for passing on to higher grades of certification. Editor Johnson says: The initial or probationary certificate, valid for the school year in which it is granted, gives the teacher the chance to make good. If she does, she can pass on to the qualification certificate, valid for five years. If she does not, she cannot advance, and she cannot continue in the service more than three years in all, under any conditions. Some teachers require that long to find themselves.

In the same way, the holder of a qualification certificate "who has shown skill in teaching and in the control of pupils" may claim a life certificate. The reward comes when fairly earned—not until. It will be noted that the plan adopted provides for and requires that teachers must continue to grow. As a means to this end, a certain amount of summer school work or special training and courses in professional reading are prescribed, besides successful teaching in order to fit for the advanced certificates. It is not enough that a teacher shall be a good teacher if she can't become a better one. The instruction in subjects and methods and the stimulus gained by special work of this kind makes the fair teacher good and the good, superior.

To test a teacher by his work rather than his knowledge seems to us the right way. Some of the poorest teachers we ever sat under were the best educated men we associated with.

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but they lacked the ability to teach, to inspire or to awaken in their pupils the ability to acquire knowledge for themselves. They knew so much themselves they did not understand the capabilities of their students and discouraged and confused them. We cannot say the best teachers we had were the least educated, but often a person somewhat deficient in education makes an excellent teacher.

This movement by the board of education is a wide departure from the standards and requirements of the past but there is much in it that will commend itself to the practical people of the state.

Valuable Information For Farmers.

The Caledonian publishes this morning a report of a farm survey conducted by the government on seventy-one farms in Caledonia county which shows just what these farmers are doing. The averages reached are very instructive and every farmer in the county should compare the income of his farm with these averages. There he can quickly tell whether his cows or his land are producing an average income. If they are not he can study his conditions and find out why.

Here is an interesting figure: The average receipts per cow from milk and milk products on these seventy-one farms is \$73 per year. The average of the ten better paying farms was \$80 a year. That is for milk and milk products. When a man has a cow that will produce \$170 worth of butter fat in a year, and several in the county have, they have an animal worth more than twice as much as the average cow. Another feature that shows the value of good cows is the showing that farms where cows produced less than \$65 worth of milk and milk products a year the labor income of the farmer was \$399 per year. On farms where the income per cow was from \$65 to \$80 per year the labor income was \$499, and where the receipts per cow were over \$80 per year the average labor income was \$789.

With these facts before them every farmer who desires the best success should begin at once building up the productivity of his herd. Experience has taught that the cheapest way to do this is to use pure bred sires from highly productive strains of cattle. Caledonia county ranks high in the quality of its cattle but there is no reason why it should not rank still higher. Our farmers should not be contented with a labor income of \$399 per year when it is possible to secure an income of \$789.

It is reported that Gen. Joffre after inspecting the British troops in France has decided they will not be ready for service in a general offensive before September. These men were organized and trained before they went to France and still months of training are necessary to get them in fighting trim. In view of these facts Mr. Bryan's volunteer army of a million men between sunrise and sunset would make a queer force for defense of this country. It is no joke to be a soldier these days and the quicker the American people recognize the necessity for military training the better it will be for the future of this land.

President Wilson is said to have been working on the democratic platform for several weeks and has written the following: "In the field of international matters we specifically approve, endorse and applaud the following achievements of our president. All this goes to show the president has not lost his ability to write well, even when writing about himself. Should he fail to be re-elected president some patent medicine house might like to employ him and his adjectives in their advertising department.

Why not have a sane and safe Fourth of July in St. Johnsbury this year? The village authorities have the power to regulate the noise and use of explosives. All people are willing that Young America should make a reasonable amount of noise and blow of its share of fingers, etc. But it is not right that the entire night before and after the national holiday should be made hideous. Let's start the agitation for a decent observance of the day.

FAREWELL RECEPTION

Students and Townspeople Honored Prof. H. N. Wood—Presented A Purse.

A large number of the friends and pupils of Mr. and Mrs. Harlan N. Wood gathered in the Museum Saturday evening to voice their appreciation of the services which they have rendered to the Academy and town during the 12 years of their residence here, and to express sincere regret for their departure to Ohio, where Prof. Wood is to take the position of instructor of Latin and History in Western Reserve academy near Cleveland.

After an informal reception the Academy Glee club sang several original songs prepared for the occasions, as follows:

I: Tune, "Down in Mobile." (1) Ohio, Ohio, There's where we know Our Skippers Wood will go But he'll come back Back to us in old St. J.

(2) Ohio, Ohio, There's where we know Our Mother Wood will go But she'll come back Back to us in old St. J.

II: Tune, "Fair Harvard." (1)

We have met here tonight to do honor to you, Dear Professor, and you, Mrs. Wood, And with grateful remembrance the years to review, So complete with treasures of good, You have even been ready to give of your best To Academy, church and to friend, For all worthy objects you've shown a fine zest, And your talents you've spent without end.

(2)

Twelve classes of pupils through you, sir, have learned The way to make history speak, And under your guidance their spirits have burned With the knowledge of Latin and Greek; But the best of the lessons that you, sir, have taught, Are Sincerity, Gentleness, Truth, Which into the lives of so many were wrought By you, a great teacher of youth.

(3)

The dear little "Wood-box," just over the hill, Whose doors ever open have stood, Has welcomed us all with the cheer and good-will Of its mistress, our dear Mrs. Wood. We will never forget you, dear friends; may you know, Though in far-off Ohio you roam, That our hearts' best affection but deeper will grow, And St. J. is forever your home.

III: Tune, "Soldier's Farewell." (1)

How can you bear to leave us, And thus so sadly grieve us? Yet, whoso'er you send you, May Fortune's gifts attend you, Farewell, farewell, our own dear Woods. Farewell, farewell, our own dear Woods.

(2) Though we no more behold you, May Heaven's grace enfold you, While we our grief are voicing, Ohio is rejoicing, Farewell, farewell, our own dear Woods. Farewell, farewell, our own dear Woods.

Presentation by A. B. Noyes.

Mr. A. B. Noyes, in behalf of a large number of friends, presented Mr. and Mrs. Wood a bag containing \$100 in gold, in the following words:

"Harlan Nims Wood, faithful teacher, Christian gentleman, patriotic citizen, loyal friend; your work in this community for the past dozen years has been so perfectly accomplished that your loss to us will not be appreciated until you have been some time away, and the different activities that have claimed some part of your time need the help that you have so freely given. We are here tonight, however, to express to you something of our appreciation, and to assure you of our affection for what you are and what you have done. Some of us here tonight have been fortunate enough to have the relation that necessarily exists between a teacher and the parents of children in his classes, perhaps the hardest test that any man can be subjected to. Your kindness to the children, your patience with their follies, and your honest efforts for their advancement have been appreciated, and so skillfully have you done your work that I have yet to hear of a single person, either parent or scholar, who does not love and respect you, and we have been fortunate, too, in that Mrs. Wood so heartily joined with you in all your efforts, so that the measure of your effectiveness has nearly doubled. I do not need to refer to the work which has been done by you in connection with the Glee club, which has been, as I understand it, a labor of love, and one which the pupils and people have fully appreciated, and which has brought so great pleasure to the community.

"But while the school and its work has been your vocation, there are other interests in the town, and to many of them you have given freely of your time and money, and made them an avocation. While you have connected yourself with one particular church, as every good man should do, and have given to it of your best, you have by no means confined your distinctive church activities to it but at all times have freely given to the others as opportunity has presented itself, or knowledge has come to you of their needs, and by this generous action on your part the whole community has had the benefit of your

helpfulness, and so in every undertaking inaugurated by the citizens of the town for its betterment you have given unstintingly of your time and strength, and always have responded in the full measure of any demand, asking nothing in return except a participation in the common satisfaction when good is accomplished. St. Johnsbury, like many another New England town, was carved out of the wilderness that once pervaded this whole valley, and differs mainly from other similar places because of the purposes that these pioneers had for her, in that she should excel in high ideals of usefulness, that she should be graceful in adornment of religion, education and true manliness. To this ideal you have given most abundantly your best effort, and because you have we shall miss you all the more. Emerson in writing about friends says: 'We are to signify to each other the daily needs and offices of man's life, and embellish it by courage, wisdom and unity. It should never fall into something usual and settled, but should be alert and inventive, and add rhyme and reason to what was drudgery.' No more fitting language could be spoken to portray your life as we have seen it among us. You have seemingly appreciated that the only reward of virtue is virtue; the only way to have a friend is to be one. This community has demanded of you the highest style of friendship, and, however hard it is to establish it with flesh and blood, the demand has been fully met.

"In olden times when it was desired to do homage to a person offerings were made of sweet smelling spices, and costly spikenard spoke to the recipient of the love and affection which it brought on the wings of its beautiful aroma. We choose a different vehicle as precious and no less suggestive—this little bag of gold bound with its ribbon of blue we offer you, and we hope that it may be transformed into some shape that may always be before you and dear Mrs. Wood to keep in mind the love and esteem that you have won from this community."

In fitting words of reminiscence and appreciation Mr. Wood responded, and a memorable gathering broke up by singing "Old Lang Syne," all present joining hands.

McINDOE FALLS.

(J. D. Nichols, Correspondent.) M. J. Moore went to Woodsville Tuesday night to the home of his daughter, Mrs. L. V. Chase. Mrs. Harold Merrill and son of Seattle, Wash., also arrived at Woodsville Tuesday.

J. Frederick Johnson returned here Friday to spend a few days longer vacation with his family at P. B. Van Dykes'.

Mrs. Alice Field of Woodsville, N. H., was in town on Wednesday night and Thursday.

Miss Seraph Bliss and Rev. C. B. Bliss were at Peacham for the convention Tuesday and Wednesday.

Principal G. H. Gardner returned to his home at North Marshfield, Mass., the first of the week.

W. H. Gilchrist has purchased a new Overland automobile. Elbridge Savage of St. Albans, Vt., has been visiting his uncle, Sherburn Moore.

Mrs. Johanna Hale called on friends in Monroe and McIndoe Thursday.

The barn owned by A. E. Carter, which is located just beyond the house occupied by Thomas McCondaeh, is being torn down.

Mrs. William Clark went to Hardwick by auto Wednesday night and is visiting friends there.

Mrs. John Laundry is falling. Mrs. Milo Judkins of Laconia has been caring for her.

Mrs. Plyna Douse and children are visiting at James Morgan's.

Several from here attended the Placey-Johnson wedding at Passumpsic Wednesday.

Mrs. Mabel McCoudach is working at Walker's Inn.

R. K. C. BIBLE CLASS MEETS

Mrs. Fred Potts, Teacher, Extends Farewell to Seniors.

The R. K. C. Bible class of the North Congregational church met with their teacher, Mrs. Fred Potts, on Webster street, after the baccalaureate service Sunday evening in their annual farewell to the academy seniors, who are members of the class.

The class started three years ago with 12 members and now it numbers 40 young men of Academy age. The class name was taken from Tennyson's "Self-Reliance, Self-Knowledge and Self-Control, there three alone lead life to sovereign power."

About 30 were present and toasts were given during the evening by

members of the class. Those leaving the class by graduation from the Academy, are Ora Bailey, Archibald Hunter, Philip Nelson, Leland Parker, Clarence Vitty and David Warden.

Dr. Hartman's Lecture.

An illustrated lecture was given in the assembly room of Grace Methodist church Wednesday evening by Rev. Dr. L. O. Hartman of Chicago, upon the children of the Orient, particularly of the great republic of China. Dr. Hartman has recently returned from that country and his views and the story of the pictures were greatly enjoyed by a large audience.

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